- 15 -

I claim:

1. A graphical user interface displayable in a content window of a Web browser for accessing an online software application, comprising:

5   a button, the button programmed with a URL of a start page of the online software application;

whereby, clicking on the button causes the start page of the online software application to be displayed in a display area.

2. The graphical user interface of claim 1, wherein the
10 graphical user interface includes the display area.

3. The graphical user interface of claim 2, including a border enclosing the display area and wherein the button is located in the border.

4. The graphical user interface of claim 1, wherein the
15 button is dynamically programmable by a user of the interface.

5. The graphical user interface of claim 1, wherein the button is programmable by an administrator of the interface.

6. The graphical user interface of claim 1, wherein the display area is implemented using an HTML command selected from
20 the group consisting of IFRAME, FRAME, LAYER and ILAYER.

7. The graphical user interface of claim 1, wherein the button is implemented using representation means selected from

- 16 -

the group consisting of an HTML text link, an HTML image link and
an HTML button.

8. The graphical user interface of claim 1, wherein the
interface resembles a PDA and includes a plurality of the buttons
5   to access a plurality of the online software applications.

9. A method for interaction between a Web browser on a first
computer and an online software application on a second computer,
said method comprising the steps of:

initiating an application on the first computer to open a
10   graphical user interface in the content window of the Web
browser, the interface including a button, the button programmed
with a URL of a start page of the online software application;
and

accessing the start page using the button,

15   thereby causing the start page to be displayed in a display
area to permit interaction with the online software application.

10. The method of claim 9, including accessing a second
start page of a second online software application by using a
second button programmed with the URL address for the second
20   start page and thereby causing the second start page to be
displayed in the display area.

11. A method of accessing an online software application
under control of a server system, comprising the steps of:

- 17 -

displaying in a Web browser, a button programmed with a URL of a start page of the online software application;

sending a request to the server system to access the start page of the software application in response to selection of the

5   button; and

displaying the requested start page in a display area.

12. The method of claim 11, including the steps of transmitting, using the Web browser, a request to the server system to associate the start page of the online software

10   application with the button;

receiving permission from the server system to associate the start page with the button; and

associating the start page of the application with the button.

15   13. A system comprising:

means for creating one or more button means associated with one or more start pages of one or more online software applications;

means for making available the button means via a Web page;

20   means for selecting one of the button means; and

- 18 -

means for displaying the start page of the online software

application associated with the selected button means in a

display area in response to selection of the button means.

14. The system of claim 13, including means for permitting a

5   user to associate the one or more button means with the one or

more online software applications.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said means for

permitting is an online form.

16. The system of claim 13, including means for permitting

10   an administrator to associate the one or more button means with

the one or more online software applications.

17. The system of claim 13 wherein said means for displaying

is a graphical user interface which resembles a PDA.

18. The system of claim 17 including a branding graphic.

15   19. The system of claim 17, including display area

maximization means.

20. The system of claim 16, including a depressed button to

show the currently selected online software application.

21. A method of associating an online software application

20   with a graphical user interface displayable in a content window

of a Web browser, the graphical user interface comprising a

button associable with a URL for a start page of the online

software application, whereby selecting the button causes the

online software application to be displayed in a display area, the method comprising the steps of:

locating an instance of a first said online software application using the Web browser; and

5   causing the button to be associated with the URL of the start page of the instance of the first said online software application.

22. The method of claim 21, comprising the additional steps of:

10   locating an instance of a second said online software application using the Web browser;

finalizing and deleting the instance of the first said online software application; and

causing the button to be associated with the URL of the 15 start page of the instance of the second said online software application.

23. The method of claim 21, including the additional step of first causing the creation of a new instance of the first said online software application.

20   24. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of causing the button to be associated with the URL of the start page of the instance of the first said online software application is accomplished by means of an online form.

- 20 -

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the steps of causing the creation of a new instance of the first said online software application and causing the button to be associated with the URL of the start page of the new instance of the first said online
5   software application are accomplished by means of an online form.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein the steps of finalizing and deleting the instance of the first said online software application and causing the button to be associated with the URL of the start page of the instance of the second said online
10 software application are accomplished by means of an online form.